



Northbourne News

7th October 2022

This term's value: Community

'God looked at what he had done, and it was good' (Genesis 1:12)

PTA Update

I am pleased to be able to introduce you to our newly formed PTA committee, elected at our AGM on Monday. Becci Cox, mum of Darcy in Kites will be Chair, supported by Lisa Howlett, mum of Alfie in Owls and Ellis in Puffins as Vice Chair. Karen Hynds, mum of Lucas in Owls and Tracey Haxton, mum of Sophie in Kites, will continue for a second year as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Donna North, mum of Frankie and Freddie in Kestrels and Bella in Falcons; Danielle McKechnie, mum of Lacey-Lou in Nightingales; Sarah West, mum of Niall in Falcons; and Julia Davis, mum of Finn in Wrens and Reece in Puffins are co-opted committee members. I am sure you will join me in thanking our new committee members for their time and commitment.

Although the committee we have in place will take a lead in organising events, we cannot run these without extra pairs of hands. We know how busy home life is, but would be really grateful to anyone who can come along to help set up, run, or tidy up after the events that we will aim to run during the year. Please speak to myself, one of the committee members, or keep an eye on the PTA Facebook page (search Northbourne School PTA) for updates if you can help at any point – we will be really grateful.

Some initial diary dates to note are:

- Friday 14th October at the end of school: **second-hand uniform sale** (we are only asking for donations of Northbourne jumpers, Northbourne PE T-shirts and coats at the moment please – we don't currently need any trousers, skirts etc).
- Thursday 3rd November: **firework discos** (more information to follow).

Learning Review Meetings

You are now able to book a remote meeting with your child's class teacher for our first round of Learning Review meetings which will take place on Wednesday 19th (4 – 7pm) and Thursday 20th October (3:10 – 5pm). *Due to our Key Worker approach in Nursery, parents of children in Penguins may be asked to book an appointment on a particular evening out of these two options; more information will follow next week.*

This round of meetings will be held via Zoom; this will be reviewed for our meetings later this year.

The focus for this term's Learning Review meetings will be on how your child has settled into their new class, their level of attainment since the start of September compared to where we would expect children to typically be working by this point of the year, and your child's targets for the rest of the term. We will also be reporting on your child's attitude and effort towards their work. You will also be able to discuss how best you can support your child to do as well as they can throughout the school year, as well as learning more about the targets they will be aiming for during the year.

As usual, we will use ParentMail's appointment booking system for these meetings. Booking slots are now open; please make sure to log on and book an appointment as soon as possible, especially if you are limited for the times you can make. If you have any problems with ParentMail, please give the school office a call and we will do our best to help. After bookings are made, and before your appointment, you will be sent log-in details for how to access your meeting with your child's teacher.

A reminder that the system only allows **one appointment per child**. We ask separated parents to attend together where possible and hope that meeting virtually will make this easier; however, please speak to the school office if you find that an appointment has been made that you cannot attend.

Fundraising

After school next Thursday (13th October), Lottie, Elsie, Isabella, Sophia, Bella and Jessica from Falcons will be holding a fundraiser to raise money for the people affected by the recent floods in Pakistan. The money raised will go to the Red Cross who will distribute it to those in need. They will be selling handmade crafts as well as delicious cakes outside the school hall (or inside the hall if it is raining) so please come along and take a look.

Governor Update

The Local Governing Body play an important, strategic role in the life of our school, working with the whole school community to fulfil the school's vision of Nurturing Excellence through the values of love, community, integrity and perseverance. The last three years have seen those values played out in so many ways, and the glowing inspection report last year is testimony to the thriving community at Northbourne. It is a privilege to serve as governors again this year.

The governing body is made up of church-appointed (foundation), parent and community governors. At our first meeting of this year, Kate Woods was elected as Chair of Governors and Sarah Mollen as Vice-chair. A full list of governors and their roles can be found on the [governor page](#) of the school website.

Year Group news

Puffins and Swans: In our daily phonics lessons we are learning to blend words to read them with the sounds that we know. By reading these blending books with your child at home every day you are reinforcing this learning and helping your child make progress. A quick reading session at home every day for 5 minutes is all it takes to help children keep up with the sounds we are teaching them. We would be really grateful if you could fit this into your routines; as always, please speak to one of us if this causes any problems.

We have started to post updates of what we are learning on Google Classrooms. Please make sure you are logged on to your child's account to see what we have been doing. If you have lost your child's log in details, please let one of the team know and we will re-send them for you.

Robins...are planning to visit Edmunds Park during Tuesday afternoon to carry out some mapping work linked to their learning in Geography. Consent for this trip is covered by the permissions you completed when your child started school, but please let Miss Murray know if you have any questions. Depending on the weather, please make sure to send children to school in appropriate clothing – especially a suitable coat if the forecast looks wet.

Kites, Eagles and Kestrels are planning to watch the film version of their class text Goodnight Mister Tom during the final week of term. This is rated PG; if you would prefer your child not to watch this, please speak to their class teacher or email upperkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk by Monday 17th October. As always, feel free to get in touch with any questions.

Music tuition

You may know from our newsletters and other communication that, for our peripatetic music offer, we currently host djembe drumming and iRock lessons. From next term (after October half term), djembe lessons will be combined with ukulele tuition and become a Skins and Strings club; more information is attached with this newsletter.

If your child would like to learn a different instrument, we are able to host lessons from Oxfordshire Music Service where there is sufficient demand. More information and a sign-up form is at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/music-service/music-lessons/learning-instrument>; please take a moment to have a look and sign up if this is of interest.

Open Day Sunday 9 October

Ages 2-7



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